



127 Washington Avenue, East Building, 3rd Floor, North Haven, CT 06473
Phone (203) 865-0587 Fax (203) 865-4997 www.csms.org

**Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony on Senate Bill 933 An Act Concerning the
Prescription Monitoring Program
Submitted to the General Law Committee
February 24, 2015**

Senator Leone, Representative Baram and members of the General Law Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today on **Senate Bill 933 An Act Concerning The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**.

CSMS is proud of its efforts working in conjunction with the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) and members of the General Assembly to originally obtain a federal grant for the development of the prescription monitoring program (PMP), its original piloting through the efforts of several CSMS physicians and ultimately the support of the State to maintain the program. In addition, CSMS was pleased to work with the General Assembly and once again DCP to support the requirement that all prescribers register for its use.

CSMS understands and agrees with the significant attention already this session being given to a significant problem facing our society- opioid and controlled substance abuse. We remain committed to working with members of this committee and others as we move forward and offer the resources and expertise of our Society and its members to develop the best possible legislation to address this issue. Legislation that hopefully focuses on a reduction in abuse and deterrence as well as an increase in focus and resources provided to treatment and coverage for substance abuse and addiction.

Specific to Senate Bill 933, we must raise concerns regarding clarity of the language and possible necessity. First, in Section 1(b) reference to the Commissioner is unclear. Although the PMP is housed within DCP, the registration requirement relates to the renewal of a prescribers' license to practice, granted through the Department of Public Health (DPH).

Second, as registration for the PMP is codified in statute, we believe it is considered a requirement for licensure and as such, any prescriber failing to register does not meet requirements for licensure.

Again, CSMS remains committed to a strong PMP and expansive use by prescribers. We respectfully ask for the opportunity to work with committee members as we move forward on this and other related issues as we move forward this session.